

Volume 24, Issue 6-November 26, 2002

University of Alaska Southeast

The Whalesong

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Chancellor announces new information officer

By Scott Foster
Whalesong Contributor

UAS Chancellor John Pugh has announced the hiring of Kevin Myers of Juneau as the new information officer on the Juneau campus. He replaces Scott Foster, who is retiring. Myers has spent his adult life in media, public relations and communications. He begins Dec. 2.



Kevin Myers

"We were pleased there were many qualified candidates," Pugh said. "The UAS information officer position requires a variety of skills. Kevin's broad experience in print, broadcast, film, the Internet and oral communications, plus his energetic enthusiasm will be great strengths for the campus."

Myers said, "This is a great opportunity. The university plays an integral role in our community and it's a real honor to be a part of it. It's always exciting to be part of something that is growing as quickly as the university is right now. If there is a downside, it's that I won't be working with Scott. He's set a high standard for me to live up to. I'm very excited to get started."

At present, Myers is general manager and managing editor of the Capital City Weekly. Previous experience includes working in newspaper and Internet sales at the Concord Monitor; newspaper syndication agent; producer and director of cable TV programs; producer and director of videos for Children's Hospital in Boston; writer of a feature film screenplay that was selected as a finalist in the 2000 New Century Writer competition; writer, producer and director of the feature film "Emerson Park;" community organizer, selling luxury autos; and performing standup comedy at clubs, colleges, on radio and TV.

Myers earned a Bachelor of Science degree, cum laude, in Motion Picture Production from Fitchburg State College in Massachusetts in 1995 and an Associate of Arts degree in Radio and Television Production from Fullerton College in California in 1987. He is a volunteer mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters. He moved to Juneau 2000 with his wife, Deirdre, and children Zoe and Joseph.

First class leadership program one year later

By Rosa Fonseca
Whalesong Staff

Most of the students who entered the leadership program last spring didn't know what to expect. A year after being in the SPC 218/418 Leadership Communication, and taking up positions as campus leaders, these students are not aware of the impact it caused in their lives as students.

"It was such a leap! Things just started happening," said Micah Nelson, now a senator with student government. "The Leadership Program gave me the drive to want to work with the university and be involved with the interworkings of UAS."

Justin Whittington, who serves in various leadership roles said, "It all started with the leadership program." He is a student ambassador, a Student Government senator and representative in the Coalition of Student leaders. He also participates in the System Governance, an advisory board to the president of University of Alaska.

"I learned to listen and appreciate other people's point of view," said Whittington. He applies the quality of a good listener in all the positions he assumed. He said, "I am able to listen to what students think is important."

Michelle Martin is also a careful listener in her leadership position. As part of the program, she became a student mentor for PITAS (Preparing Indigenous Teachers for Alaska Schools) at UAS. "I am able to check on students, tutor and guide the ones who need assistance," said Martin. According to her, the leadership program not only provides students with connections to organizations outside of campus, but also provides a college student's perspective to those organizations and to local students who would like to know more about UAS.

Kecia Medina was surprised with the knowledge



Photo by Eric Morrison

Students Mark Graves and Jonathon Stein, who participated in "Turning Trash into Turkeys," a joint Humanities 120 and student government service project, purchased turkeys Friday for needy families with money earned from picking up litter.

techniques she has gained from the readings in the leadership class. "I found myself, on more than one occasion, mentally referring to the literature I had read in order to help solve an immediate dilemma," she said. Medina also enjoys the connections she has in almost every department. She said that when she walked down the halls of UAS this semester, she felt it was her duty to help wherever and whoever she could, whereas before it was just the "nice thing" to do.

"The leadership program has taken the "me" and made it a "we" in my life. This has helped me define and shape my style of leadership," said Medina.

The interest of the students in the leadership class was mainly in expanding horizons, and even for the ones who had other goals in mind, the program was important. Summer Dorr, one of the student writers for the Whalesong and now a correspondent for Teen People magazine, participated in the program and found it great. She said, "It opens doors and helps and you get known."

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Whalesong

The student voice
of UAS

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Your name could be here!

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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a free bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of *The Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. *The Whalesong* editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

Where does all the money come from?

By Sean Smith
Whalesong Staff

A \$30,000 Ford Expedition has been, or is in the process of being, purchased for the activities on the UAS campus. I have a few questions to ask the administration about this vehicle and the reason for buying a gas guzzler such as an Expedition (which is rumored to have the worst gas mileage compared to any other car on the market). For those of us who attend UAS and pay our hard earned money to do so, where is there room for a car in the decreasing budget of the university for me and the other people who are not involved in an activity?

I am involved in the workings of the university by taking part in the Whalesong, so does that make me better than the average student who chooses to focus on school or who works two jobs? Was I, or any students, involved in the choice, price range, color or amenities of the vehicle purchased? Why was I not notified about a vehicle being purchased in the first place, if it is supposed to be for the greater good of the students? I feel I should get a say in what was being bought. Am I not allowed that right? Does this car make those students involved in activities more of a priority to administration than the student who has to support a child, or the student that doesn't have the time to get involved though they wish they could?

Where did this money come from, with the UA system asking students for an additional 10 percent raise in tuition this coming year? If there is a budget problem, is buying an expensive SUV a productive way of handling this problem and is it going to produce a resolution? I am losing the logical reasoning for an eight

passenger vehicle when most activities include more than eight people. And where do these activities need to go? Places around town are easily accessible by a 10-to-15-person van that might cost 10 to 15 thousand less than an Expedition, with 10 or 15 more miles to the gallon. Do places around Juneau need to be driven to in a monster truck? Who gets to drive this mass of machinery? Can I drive it around, or is it reserved for only those involved in activities? Will there be off road expeditions that students can go on, hence the name Expedition? What seems to be the problem with the current vans that housing and activities already own? I have heard that the vans are broke, how much will it cost to fix them? Over \$30,000? The liability of a 15 person van might be a large amount, but how is buying a brand new SUV going to reduce insurance cost?

It seems to me that I am being ripped off by not committing to an activity worthy of a vehicle. Let's make things equal at UAS. The fact is that a \$30,000 vehicle is not necessary for the UAS activities office to own, nor will it pay itself off in the long run. With all the gallons of gas the vehicle will chug down annually we could pay for much needed technology (Whalesong office equipment in particular) and events that benefit the entire school, not just a select group of students. The overall well being of our UAS community should be on the administrative agenda, not purchasing a stylish vehicle that benefits a select few. I, along with most of the students on campus, will not have the privilege of sitting my pretty behind on those plush \$30,000 seats that the so-called "intellectual beings" have purchased for the "good of the students." Even though I might not be able to sit in it, at least I get to admire the paint.

What the hell else do you want to charge us for?

Anonymous Whalesong Contributor

Many of you may have heard about the incident at housing with the light poles being knocked over. In the past month, six light poles along the path to campus have either been knocked over, or the bases have been unbolted. In all the cases the lights have been destroyed, and will need to be fixed or replaced. Either way, it is going to be expensive. There is no need for you to worry about the school paying for it though, they have it all covered. In fact, there has been a rumor going around (which I believe to be true) that they have decided to bill the on campus housing residents for the costs. Everyone in housing is going to have their account billed an equal portion of the costs unless the guilty party comes forward.

Whoever decided to bill us thinks they have the situation under control. If all goes as planned, the students should be outraged, and eventually someone is bound to turn in the lamp-pushers. Well, it doesn't work that way. I'm angry at the school more than the people who caused the damage. I don't feel that the school is in any position to be upset and charge students. We are the ones who should be upset. When we paid for housing, we not only paid for the apartments or dorms that we live in, but we also paid for a suitable path to walk to and from school on, and security. Neither of these have recently been supplied. The path is no longer properly lit. All six light poles can be seen from the G-

building at housing. Obviously security isn't doing their job-pushing over light poles doesn't seem like an inconspicuous affair.

So, all this aside, residents are still getting punished for what a few people did. If this is what it comes to, fine, but if some of have to pay, we all should have to pay. The problem with this is that the school determined that a select few people don't have to pay. These people are the CA's (the people who are partially accountable for security at housing). Apparently they are "responsible" individuals, and there is no way that they are suspects. This reasoning, above all is where we should draw the line. I am a student employee for the school, and I currently am working two jobs for them. I took this act of not charging the CA's as an insult. The CA's are responsible individuals, yet other employees are untrustable? Every day at my job here, I am in the position to either steal money, or allow people to cheat on tests. I also have access to personal information. (I am sure there are plenty of housing residents that are in the same position). If we are irresponsible then why are we trusted to work in our positions at the school.

Whoever is deciding whether our accounts are being charged needs to set the rumor straight. If some of us are to be fined, then we all need to be. The CA's are here to ensure situations like this don't happen. Consider fining them too, or our respect for them may be lost.

Editor's note: Although we welcome student contributions, we can no longer print material anonymously. All articles must have the contributing student's name in the byline. After all, you should get credit for your work and stand behind your opinions!

Letters to the Editor

The Whalesong gladly accepts letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 300 words, and may be edited for length, clarity, and grammar. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification. Send your letters to 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801, whalesong@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Maurant Bldg.

Here comes the winter "Holidaze"

By Michelle Harman
UAS Counselor

Get ready for turkey, beer, and football games. It's November and Thanksgiving is nearing. Many students look forward to home-cooked meals and seeing family and friends, not to mention having a break from the pressure of college. It's a time to kick back and have fun, at least for a couple days. There's no such thing as too much football in our house at Thanksgiving; yet we all know how too much turkey can make us feel. But what about "too much" beer...or wine...or partying? Holidays are likely times for doing too much of anything, especially drinking booze. It's easy to end up binge-drinking over the holidays, especially if that's how students are used to "partying."

What is binge drinking anyway? Isn't it a normal part of the college experience? According to *FACTS ON TAP*, "...many people use alcohol to help themselves relax in social situations, ...but most people don't drink heavily. There are only a few people who really get trashed at parties, lose control, embarrass themselves or endanger their lives."

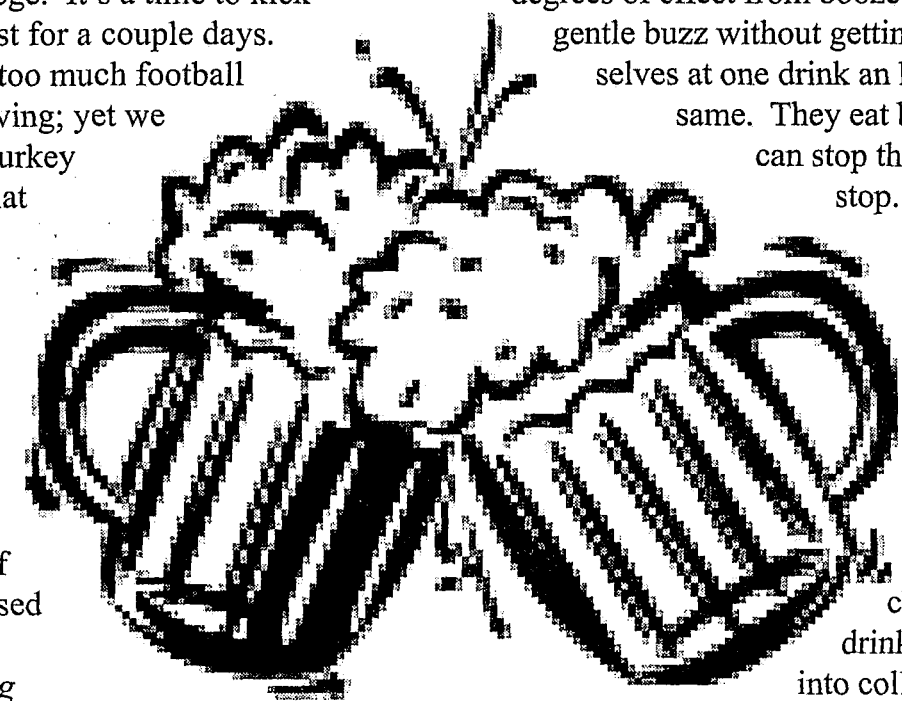
So maybe it is a myth that binge drinking in college is the common experience.

Often, students who binge-drink will surround them-

selves with others who drink to get wasted, and compared to their friends, they don't seem like a binge drinker. It's hard for binge drinkers to imagine that social drinkers don't get drunk. Why drink if not for the effect? There are degrees of effect from booze. Some people can get a gentle buzz without getting drunk. They pace themselves at one drink an hour and keep their BAC the same. They eat before or with drinking, and can stop themselves when they want to stop. They don't get caught up in the passion to get wasted.

But don't college binge drinkers "grow out of it" once they graduate? I guess some do. Some students can drink heavily and never suffer legal, academic, or relationship problems. Once their social environment changes, they can adapt their drinking. But some students come into college with these habits in place from their teen years, and continue to surround themselves with other's who party the same way. Heavy drinking in college can ultimately lead some people to full blown alcoholism after college. Old habits are hard to break. (*FACTS ON TAP*) Alcohol use is different from alcohol abuse. Some people can drink and it doesn't affect their lives, some can't.

Counseling is available to all students of UAS at no cost. To make an appointment with the counselor, Michele Harman, call 465-1298.



wellness is freedom

beauty

We are a
beautiful people.
It's time we believe that
in our hearts and reflect
it in our actions.
By seeing the beauty
within our people
we can change
our future.

ALASKA NATIVE
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Alcohol Quiz

Does this happen to you?

I admit, labels are not helpful, but knowing what defines a binge-drinker can help with making better decisions when drinking. So here are just a few statements to respond to with "yes" or "no", a mini moment of truth (*FACTS ON TAP*).

- Your personality is altered when you consume alcohol.
- When you're in a social situation and no alcohol is provided, you feel uncomfortable.
- Drinking has caused you to be late for class or work.
- You sometimes have a drink to help you fall asleep.
- When you drink you always end up drunk.
- Certain friends or places encourage you to drink.
- You have promised yourself to slow down or stop drinking, but you can only keep this promise for a few days or weeks at a time.
- Your family or friends have expressed concern about your drinking.
- It is difficult to stop drinking once you have had one or two drinks.
- The day after drinking you have trouble remembering what you did while under the influence.
- You sometimes feel guilty about your drinking.
- Even after friends say they have had enough alcohol, you want to continue to drink.
- You get irritated when friends or family want to discuss your drinking.
- Your performance at school has suffered because of your drinking.
- You have done something sexual that you later regretted while you were under the influence of alcohol.
- You always have a hangover or headache after drinking.
- You have gotten into a fistfight or argument while you were drinking.
- When you are sober, you regret the things you said and did while drinking.
- Your drinking has lead to financial difficulty.
- You stay drunk for several days at a time.
- You have neglected your classes, job, family or other obligations for two or more days in a row because you were drinking.

If you answered yes to three or more of the above, examine your habits honestly. Patterns of heavy drinking behavior in college could lead to a more serious problem down the road. If you answered yes to a significant number of statements, there's a good chance you have an alcohol problem. It's a good idea to get help from a counselor or support group.

Submitted by Michelle Harman.

FEATURES

Egan Library addition ready to open for spring semester

By Sean Smith
Whalesong Staff

After years of hard work and fierce determination, the new addition is nearly done.

Chancellor John Pugh led a group of student leaders along with several faculty members on a tour through the new Egan Library classroom addition Friday, Nov. 22.

"It is beginning to look finished with the wood ceilings just being put in this last week," said Pugh.

The group of students took a sneak peak of the facilities, being some of the first students to see inside the new addition. The Alumni Association had a similar tour the week before.

"The new wing will be an awesome addition to the campus," said Student Government President Mark Graves. "I can't wait to see it done. I'm excited for it to be open for students."

Equipped with four exits and entrances, skylights lining the ceiling, a Spike's style lounge, 16 classrooms, and a 150 capacity auditorium, the addition promises to push the university into the future of teaching.

"I think the classroom building is going to bring about some significant changes in teaching here at UAS," said Pugh.

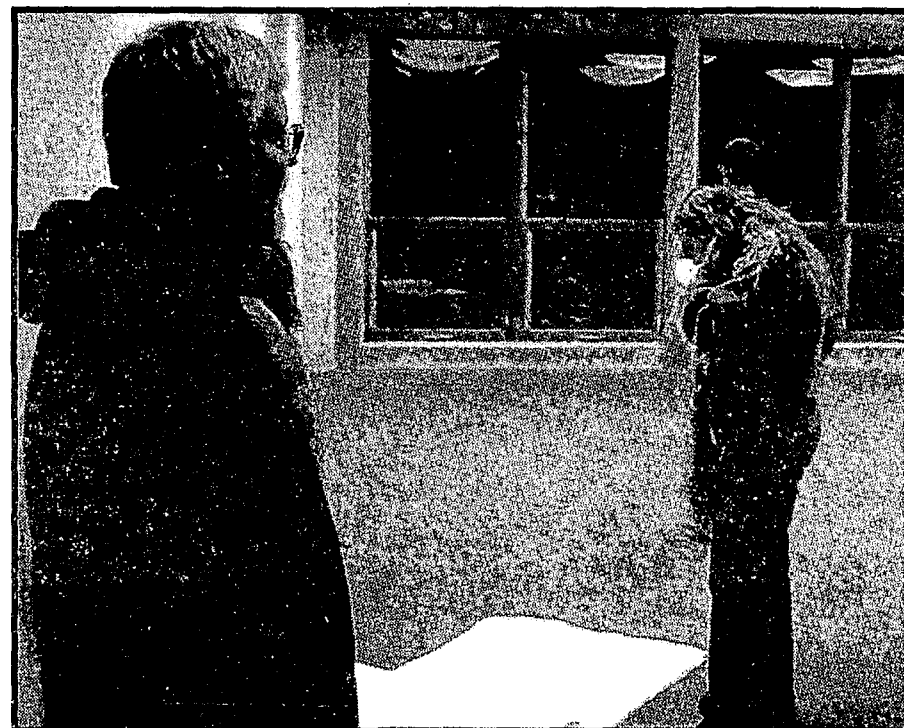


Photo by Eric Morrison
During the Chancellor-led tour, Sahar Gorbanpour admires designs for the new addition, which will include a 150-seat auditorium, 16 classroom, and a Spike's Cafe.

The new classroom extension will not only provide more space for classes, it will also provide more space for special events and presentations. The auditorium will provide a stadium-seating-setting for students,

faculty and guests to present everything from academic lectures to theatrical performances.

"Even though the construction is not all the way done, you can tell it will elevate the campus to new heights," said Graves.

Pugh said that there is also a room that is going to serve much like the Lake Room does now, which will often be used for conferences and luncheons. He said this room will be a great advantage to the university because it will provide an alternate location when there are events that have time conflicts with one another.

"It's great, looks fantastic," Levi Russell told Pugh after the tour. "I'm stoked."

The grand opening will take place Jan. 11, 2003, with the "Winter Scholarship Soiree." The evening of entertainment and scholarship fundraising is taking the place of "Tuxedo Junction" and will have games such as roulette, craps, blackjack (but no rewards for the winners), dancing, music, and more. Students over the age of 21 are encouraged to partake in the events.

Classes will begin in the new building when students return from Christmas vacation, although the building is expected to need some finishing touches. Students are now able to register for classes in the new building at the Student Resource Center.

Native American Heritage Month a success

By Jenni Hotch-Hill
Whalesong Contributor

Native American Heritage month activities have gone well. I would like to recap what we have done recently and give everyone a heads up on what is going to be happening next. Please remember that all are welcome to any of our events!

Wooch. een has hosted a couple of events so far, including the Elders luncheon on Nov. 15 in the Lake Room. The purpose of the luncheon was to share the history of Auke Lake. A group of local Tlingit elders came to share their experiences with us; some told stories, some shared that they too were still learning their culture. Rosa Miller was kind enough to share her clan's history of Auke Lake with us. She had given the information to Kolene Dunne who then shared it with us. We recorded the information that was shared at the luncheon and we will make tapes available for students. It will be a great reference to those who are interested in the history of where our campus is placed.

Nora and Richard Dauenhauer shared their poetry and writing with us during a luncheon in the Lake Room on Nov 21. These two have done tremendous work for the Tlingit language and its recent revival.



Photo By Scott Foster
Kolene Dunne shared the history of Auke Lake during one of the many Native Heritage month activities.

Having them come to lead a discussion with us at UAS was a great honor.

Wooch. een was also excited about Luci Tapahonso, a Navajo poet who presented at the Evening at Egan series on November 22. Jim Hale, an English professor at UAS has organized her visit to the university. Ms. Tapahonso is internationally recognized, and her long list of accomplishments includes five published books of poetry and short stories. She is a very popular speaker and has appeared in many national and local television programs. This was a fantastic presentation.

Finally, Wooch. een presented our own students on Nov. 25!

There are several students who have done anthropological research projects with Professor Dan Monteith this summer on Alaska Native culture. Students also presented short stories and poetry in honor of Native American Heritage Month.

We have all worked very hard to have great opportunity for students to learn about the local indigenous culture for Native American Heritage Month. Please take advantage of these ways to expand your knowledge. Wooch. een would like to emphasize that all of our events are open to all community members.

Hot art at Gallery Walk Show

By Rosa Fonseca
Whalesong Staff

Entering the art lab these days, we see a huge variety of colors and creative ideas going on, as students get ready for the 21st Annual Gallery Walk Show at Baranof Hotel on Friday, Dec. 6, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Alice Tersteeg's students will present works of printmaking, etching, silk-screening, relief prints, and batik. Other art students are exhibiting their drawings, oil and acrylic paintings, and ceramics.

At the end of every semester, historically, there has been a student exhibition at Egan library on campus. This semester, the decision was to focus on the gallery walk show. Art professor Jane Terzis said, "Students had to decide which one they wanted to be in. It makes more sense to have one exhibition for all the students, and the gallery walk is so much fun. Events were watering each other down a little bit."

Terzis talks about the importance of such an event. According to her, there is a healthy exchange when the community has a chance to see this art show. "The more we show our work through the university, the more the community is pulled into it towards the university as a resource," she said.

Dianne Anderson, who has a double major in drawing and painting, is an example of a successful

Continued on page 8

Alaska adventure for credit: student opportunities to last a lifetime

By Benjamin Nestler
Whalesong Staff

As the pressure of the semester mounts, many of us start to daydream about that once-in-a-lifetime cruise you wish would have never ended. Some of us have to work all summer in order to pay for our education so we can get that dream job we all know awaits us upon graduation. Trevor Joyce has been able to live this dream during his summer vacation for the last two years.

One of the great perks of going to UAS is that there is a plethora of ways to combine a lifetime experience to an exotic location and get paid for it, and even get some college credit in the process. Degree-seeking students interested in graduating on time but still need to work in the summers to pay for tuition may like this idea.

Joyce was involved in a research project on Buldir Island; a tiny, remote dot in the Aleutians. His official title of Biological Science Technician for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service looks very impressive on a resume, and was a worthwhile experience. Joyce was the sole American among a diverse host of international faces.

"The team comprised of my immediate supervisor, Erika Sommers from New Zealand, a Russian researcher from the Russian Academy of Science in Moscow, a Ph.D. researcher and his intern from Memorial University of Newfoundland, two Canadians, and one German," said Joyce.

Dropped off in May by the M/V Tiglax, the group was prepared to do its research in near isolation visited only once halfway through the excursion, and then picked up in September. The group had scarce access to creature comforts, living in rustic cabins with no running water, communal cooking, but unlimited access to outdoor plumbing. More than making up for these inadequacies is the breathtaking view of a face of nature rarely seen by man.

Projects involving data collection of over 20 different species of seabirds took place last summer on Buldir Island, while the previous summer's research took place on nearby Kasatochi Island. Buldir Island hosts the largest seabird-resting colony in the North American hemisphere. If you are into puffins, murres, or auklets this is the place to be. Some birds such as the Asian migrant, which are rarely seen in North America can be found on this remote island.

Joyce's project team focused on collection of ecological data on reproductive performance of seabirds, and



Photo courtesy of Trevor Joyce
Projects involving over 20 species of seabirds took place.

nesting success rates such as how many hatchlings reached fledgling status and how many fledglings survive to adulthood. The data is used to monitor the health of the marine ecosystems in the Aleutians in response to environmental pressures such as global warming, over fishing and pollution. Luckily, the habitat isn't popular enough for a resort yet so the dangers of urbanization and the strangulation of another beautiful slice of nature by man hasn't occurred...yet.

Assistant professor in the Biology program Beth Matthews was one of Joyce's advisors who guided his procedure and methods for his research for college credit. According to her, a number of students take advantage of the Field studies, behavior and ecology course. This course is available to any student with the proper prerequisites and involves a variety of fieldwork with the guidance of a mentor. A grant called "Research Experiences for Undergraduates" has been awarded to the UAS Biology department by the efforts of Dr.

Brendan Kelly and Beth Matthews. This grant expires at the end of the semester, but has been applied for and hopefully it will be awarded for another three years. The grant allows up to eight students to do research with a faculty mentor and provides a stipend. It is a nationally competitive program funded by the National Science Foundation.

Matthews, Dr. Kelly, and Dr. Ginny Eckert of the Biology Department, are some great contacts for those of you interested in finding out more about projects such as this one. Other projects that have been previously funded were: tracking ringed seals in the arctic, a study of harbor seals, and distribution of crab larvae in Glacier Bay, and crab reproduction here in Juneau. If you are excited about research at its purest in this kind of environment, contact one of these professors via internet by clicking the Biology link on the UAS homepage. Job postings for service in the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge for next summer are also available at: www.corecom.net/~usfws/.

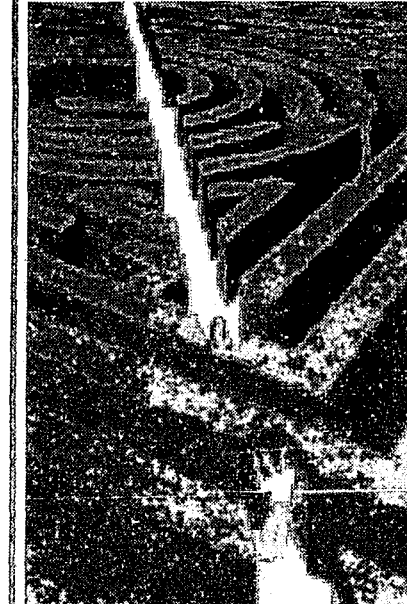


Photo courtesy of Trevor Joyce.
Buldir Island; a tiny, remote spot in the Aleutians, where the research took place.

Be smart!

Talk with your advisor
BEFORE
registering for spring
semester classes.

Advisors can
help make sure
your classes move you
most quickly
toward your degree.



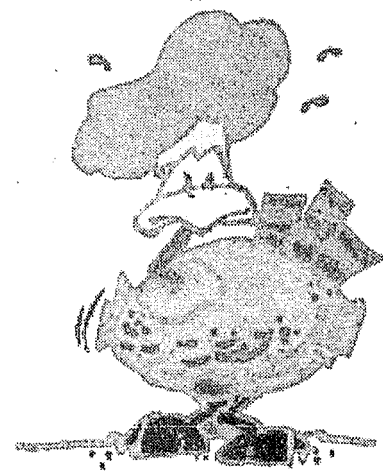
If you are unsure who
your advisor is, or you
need an advisor,
call the
Student
Resource Center
or stop by the
Novatney Bldg.

465-6457

People & Entertainment

Preview

Tuesday, November 26-
Turkey Bowling!
Mourant Courtyard, 1 p.m.
Win prizes!



Thursday, November 28
& Friday, November 29-
Happy Thanksgiving!
Campus closed



Friday & Saturday
November 29, 30-
Wild Rumpus Clown
Theater presents
"In Cahoots"
in "the Phoenix" at
Perseverance Theatre
11 p.m., \$5 to \$10
sliding scale

Friday, November 29 through
Sunday, December 1-
Alaska-Juneau Public Market, Centennial Hall
Friday noon-8 p.m., Saturday & Sunday
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tickets at the door

Friday, December 6-
Look for the Finals
Special Issue of the
Whalesong on stands!



Alumni Spotlight: Debbie Banaszak

By Emily Wescott
Whalesong Contributor

Debbie Banaszak arrived in Juneau in 1984 with \$300 (half her Permanent Fund dividend check) in her pocket. She had been living for four years in a Christian community called Game Creek outside of Hoonah, with her extended family on the East Coast. It was up to her to make her way in the world, she said. "I had friends here in Juneau that were also from (Game Creek) and gave me a place to stay and get started," Banaszak said. "I had always wanted to go to school and because I was here, UAS was the logical place to go."

Banaszak found a job and a place to live within a couple of weeks and her university career began when she took a class that fall.

"Unfortunately, I couldn't afford to go full-time, as I had to support myself and I was unaware of all the help out there for students like me at that time," Banaszak said. "It took 10 years of going to school part-time to complete my degree, but I'm very glad that I was able to attend UAS, where most of my classes were both interesting and informative and the instructors were supportive."

While attending UAS, Banaszak married and had two children, worked full-time for the state of Alaska and the governor's office, and completed an internship with the Alaska State Legislature. Since graduating in 1994 with a bachelor of liberal arts degree, government emphasis, she has worked for the Close-Up program and the Alaska State Legislature. Banaszak is currently working part-time at the university for the Alaska Universities Legislative Internship Program and raising her three children, who range in age from 3 to 10. She has been on the UAS Alumni Association Board of Directors for the past four years.

"As a way to give back to the university, I feel lucky to be involved with the UAS Alumni Association and both the university's and Alumni's continued growth," Banaszak said.



Photo courtesy of Emily Wescott
Debbie Banaszak

UAS welcomes new counselor

By Sean Smith
Whalesong Staff

New counselor at the UAS Student Resource Center Michele Harman is no stranger to counseling. Harman grew up in New York, where she attended the New York State College system until 1990. She attended graduate school until 1993 in New York, while during the summers staying in Port Alexander, Alaska. From 1993 to 2001 she worked at the Sitka Mental Health Clinic. She then moved to University of Fairbanks where she was the coordinator of the Distance Bachelor Social Work Degree for six months.

Harman then moved to Juneau where she worked at the Miller House counseling teenagers, until just recently when she came on as the counselor in the Student Resource Center.

Harman wants to be very accessible and wishes that if there is an immediate problem, then walks-ins are most welcome, but appointments are available, and encouraged. "My priorities are to save lives," Harman says. She has dealt with suicide cases before and it is something that she doesn't wish to go through again. She wants students to be able to trust her, and because the SRC (Student Resource Center) is very convenient, she thinks of it more as a "One Stop Shop," a place where students can come in and talk about many issues, such as adjusting to college life, relationships, home sickness, as well as serious problems ranging from suicide, to eating disorders, to social anxiety, and even math anxiety.

"Students will find Michele extremely easy to trust," said Dean of Students Paul Kraft. "Do not wait til things get out of hand. Usually things tend to get worse over time," said Kraft.

There are a few things that Kraft wanted to see from Harman as the UAS counselor. He wants her to respond to students needs, educate those with potential problems and try to prevent some of those problems from occurring, as well as counsel those with drug and alcohol problems. Those students caught with an alcohol infraction at housing might very well be seeing Michele and talking about the problem.

Harman is a new hire on campus to "Make sure students get the help they need," she said. So do not be shy to stop by or make an appointment. She is located in the Student Resource Center in room 202C.



Photo by Scott Foster
Michele Harman

Luci Tapahonso shares vision of hope

By Benjamin Nestler
Whalesong Staff

Beautiful imagery and language combine with Luci Tapahonso's voice to produce vivid images that in one instant can bring laughter, but in another relate the sobering reality of the difficult times shared by her people, the Navajo Nation. She read poetry, shared from her life experiences and sang in Navajo during the Evening at Egan Lecture Series on Friday, Nov. 22.

Speaking straight from the heart with grace and sureness, she relates stories from her heritage as a Navajo woman. One poem about the American flag was truly moving because of the wide range of feelings evoked by her careful use of language. The story is about the reality of the hardships a Navajo woman faces because of the flag, and how Tapahonso as a little girl could understand these feelings, yet still believe in the great ideas that our country and our flag stand for. The tone was one of perseverance, faith and hope; that the joy of life no matter how difficult is worth any price. The enduring strength of the Navajo people shines forth in her prose and fills me with a deep sense of respect and



Photo courtesy of Scott Foster
Luci Tapahonso

you missed out on a great evening. Tapahonso has a way of using the phrase "let me tell you..." to give you the feeling she is speaking directly to you.


She ended her presentation with a vision of hope in the form of an Episcopal prayer called "The prayer of the people." Tapahonso truly has a gift for telling the story how it is. No matter how great the struggle, something better is on the way. There is always hope.

wonder for these amazing people.

Tapahonso began reading and memorizing poetry at a young age. She did not come to realize that she could write her own until she took a poetry class. With her first poem she impressed her professor enough that the professor told her, "If you don't get this published, I'll get it published." Thus beginning a wonderful career in poetry.

Currently, Tapahonso teaches poetry and American Indian literature at the University of Arizona. She has authored five books of poetry and fiction and has been published in many different journals and magazines.

We had a great turnout of over 100 people at the Evening at Egan Poetry Reading on Friday, and if you didn't get the chance to go,



Sock Hop!
UAS Ballroom
Class Graduation
Dance


Public Welcome!

December 13, 2002
7:00 PM.
Elks Lodge, 109 South Franklin St.

Music per DJ
Refreshments Provided

7-8 p.m.: East Coast Swing
Lesson
Open dancing
starts @ 8:00 p.m.

FREE for any UAS student
non-students: \$ 5.00



For more information contact
Vickie Kraft, 789-5857

Earn a B.A. in Social Work without leaving Southeast.

You can now earn a baccalaureate degree in social work from the University of Alaska Fairbanks nationally accredited program while living in your home community through distance-delivered education. All social work courses will be offered by teleconference or at regional campuses. And, for the first time, in the fall of 2002, on-campus social work classes will be offered at the University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau Campus, beginning with **Social Work 103, Social Work in the Human Services**, with more social work course offerings available spring semester.

What can you do with a degree in social work?

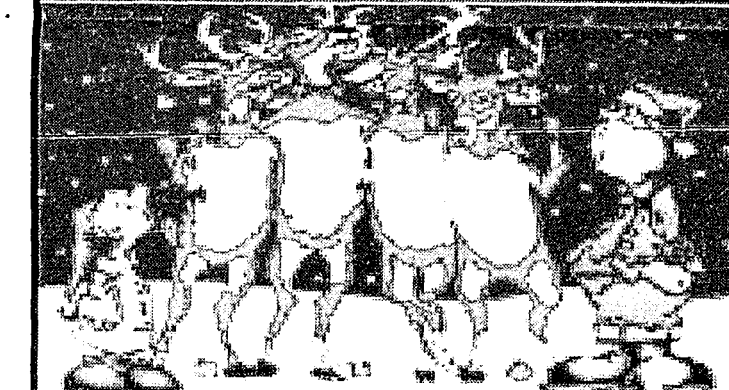
Graduates of the B.A. Social Work Program will be qualified for work in a variety of social service settings, which include:

- Mental Health and development disabilities programs;
- Native and other non-profit organizations, for example, working with children and families;
- Alcohol and drug abuse treatment programs;
- School districts

SWK F103, "Social Work in the Human Services," will be offered this Spring 2003 semester both on campus in Juneau and via distance delivery. REGISTER NOW!



For more information contact:
Jim Caringi, LCSW, Clinical Assistant
Professor of Social Work,
UAS Juneau Campus.
(907) 465-8763



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NO RECEIPT REQUIRED!
DECEMBER 10-13 (TUESDAY-FRIDAY)
AND DECEMBER 16 (MONDAY)

And Don't Miss:

The 10th Annual
"12 days of Christmas Sale"
will begin December 5th and run
until December 20th.
20% off selected items!
(See store for more details)
Free gift wrapping!

The
UAS Bookstore

Student Government Profile

Name: Jamie Atkinson
Position: Vice President

Why did you join student government?

I joined student government because I wanted to see new and exciting activities this year. Also to help others take advantage of everything that is available to them at UAS.

What are your plans for student government this year?

To plan new and exciting activities (Mad Chad in February). To help clubs become more organized and knowledgeable.

What is an issue that you firmly believe in and why?

Getting students involved in the university and community. When one person takes advantage of the opportunities offered to them, they obtain all of the benefits.

Why is voting important?

Of course it is important. It's your input into the community.



Voice on Campus Poll

Photos and quotes collected by Rosa Fonseca

Why do you think marijuana is not legal?

Kalen Meek

"Because Bush might choke on another pretzel."



Spring Pungowiwi

"Because if the government lets it become legal it might be easy for other drugs to become legal."



Angie Chatterley

"Because Alaska's economy needs that illegal drug flow."



Heather Chatterley

"Because the government loves controlling our lives. They see that a lot of people smoke pot, so they make it illegal."



Kevin Almlie

"Domino's pizza would develop a monopoly and become a world power."



Toby Coate

"Because it causes people to lose motivation and not want to work."



It's with joy that the Whalesong staff is announcing the wedding of one of our UAS students and friend



*Sulie Hannah Croan and Jeffory Allen Quick
will exchange their marriage vows on
Friday the twenty-ninth of November, 2002
at the Valley Chapel at 7:00 PM*



The Whalesong staff and friends of the couple wish them lots of love and happiness in the years ahead

Gallery continued from page 4

UAS student. She teaches art education at UAS and in schools in Juneau. She has also been an art lab assistant for seven years. Anderson emphasizes the importance of the Gallery Walk for art students, "It's a launching pad for a career. You can get your work out there, and people will come to you, they will buy it, they'll ask to represent you. If you never get your work out there these opportunities won't happen."

Anderson has her work on display at Juneau Art Gallery, in the Senate Building downtown, year round.

"Gallery Walk is a great way to get people to look at our work and students seem to be really up for it," said Terzis. And for the students as an audience, her message is "Come see, there is some hot art!"

Student and Community Submissions

Student and community submissions are both welcomed and encouraged at The Whalesong. Send them to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, jyw@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Maurant Bldg.

Leadership continued from page 1

Vicki Orazem, vice provost for student success, recently announced a ceremony for "our best and brightest" as she calls the student leaders. On Jan. 17, in the new classroom building, there will be the First Student Leadership Award Banquet, where the Chancellor will award certificates of achievement and personally thank the 2002 students for their efforts on behalf of UAS.

It is exciting to participate actively in a learning community. As Chris Grindler, student leader and Community Advisor, said, "I have the ability to see that I can make a difference for UAS."

You asked for it, you got it

UAS shuttle van service will begin Monday, December 2 and run until Spring Break. The van will make stops at student housing, SAC, campus, and the Anderson Building every 15 minutes between 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. until 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Fridays the van will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Please take advantage of this service offered to you by UAS!